

Public Participation #2

The first week in August, a booth was set up at the Caribou County Fair in Grace, Idaho. The booth was manned by Caribou County Emergency Services personnel and by members of local Volunteer Fire Departments. Attending the booth were:

Spencer Ckements, Bancroft, ID
Nadine Kelsey, Grace, ID
Dee Farnsworth, Grace, ID
Dagmar Beasley
Tina Bredehoft
Eric Christensen
Vicki Dahms, Soda Springs, ID
Claude Sant, Grace, ID
Janet Smith, Bancroft, ID

One questionnaire was completed and left at the booth.

Community Questionnaire Wildfire Hazard and Fire Safe Education Programs
Caribou County, Idaho

To reduce the risk of wildfires, Caribou County is initiating a County Wide Wildfire Mitigation Plan. The plan seeks to reduce the threat of wildfire through risk assessment and hazard identification. Mitigation measure will include but are not limited to wildfire prevention and reduction of fuels, increasing fire protection capabilities of communities, and public education. The goal of the program is to decrease the chances of wildfire spreading from public lands onto private or community lands and vice-versa. You can help in this County-wide effort by providing information and suggestions on potential assessment and mitigation efforts. This questionnaire is being conducted on behalf of the Caribou County Commissioners by W.H. West & Associates (5963 W. Broadway, Idaho Falls, ID 83402).

You may either mail this questionnaire to the address provided; or you may drop it off at the Caribou County EMS building (40 West Center, P.O. Box 775, Soda Springs, ID 83276), or at your local fire department.

Fold on dotted lines, staple and apply stamp.

W.H. West & Associates
5963 W. Broadway
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Place
Stamp
Here

Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Plan
W.H. West & Associates
5963 W. Broadway
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

1. What town or community do you live in or closest to? Bancroft

2. How great a risk do you think wildfires pose to your residence? Good

3. What areas around your community do you think are an extreme fire hazard and pose a wildfire risk to homes or property?
Mountain behind my house

4. What do you think might be the best way to mitigate, or reduce this hazard?

5. Do you know of any recent actions taken by the community, the county, etc., to reduce the risk of wildland fires or to protect residents from wildfires spreading from public land to private?

no burning

6. Have there been recent fire reduction education programs in your community? If so, what was the nature of the projects?

no

Who sponsored them and when?

7. Besides residences and community buildings, are there other locations or properties (may or may not be a structure) that have a high environmental, cultural, or economic value and should be a priority for fire risk reduction?

8. Do you think your community is prepared to combat wildland-urban interface fires?

Don't know

If not, what do you think could be done to improve your town's/ subdivision's wildland-urban interface firefighting capabilities?

If we have questions or would like more information, can we contact you?

Name: *Janet Smith*

Address: *2651 Kelly Rd
Bancroft, Idaho*

Phone:

Thank you for your time and your ideas!

Public Participation #3

On August 18, 2004, William West presented a summary of the activities and status of the Wildland Fire Mitigation Team at the monthly meeting of the Caribou County LEPC . Attending the meeting were:

LEPC 8-17-04

Steve Hayward	IBHS
Daniel D. Moore	City RACES
Dave Miller	Monanto Fir
Mark Lull	LET District Dept
Lee Johnson	Health Dept
Dr. Ken Pippo	Supt - Dist. #150
JOE RICE	SODA Springs PD
REGGIE SCHIEGEMAN	SODA SPRINGS P.D.
F. Duane Sims	Caribou County COXONSTR
Larry Bradford	St Rep.
Buck West	W.H. West + Assoc. Idaho Fir
LOVE Rasmussen	CCC
Bruce M. Dredge	ccc
Bruce R. Wolke	County Committee
Kid Hansen	Soda City
Max Hammond	Soda Spring Dist #150
Rae H. Taylor	Grace 148 Superintendent
Sherie Alvari, LSW	Caribou Memorial Hospital
Thomas R. Wright	ID State Police
JIM LANE	S.E. DISTRICT HEALTH DEPT.
Brad H. Ford	SDHD
Jesse Allen	

The following slides were presented at the meeting.



Purpose of the Plan

- **Within the State of Idaho, the Counties, with the assistance of State and Federal agencies and local expert advice, will develop a risk assessment and mitigation plan to identify local vulnerabilities to wildland fire.**
 - Idaho Statewide Implementation Strategy for the National Fire Plan - 2002
- **The objective is to provide Caribou County residents, public and private organizations with assistance and recommendations to reduce risk and hazards presented by wildfires within the County.**

08/18/2004

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Proposed Table of Contents

- **Executive Summary**
- **Introduction**
- **Wildfire Hazard Components**
- **Mitigation Goals and Strategy**
- **Existing Mitigation Programs and Resources**
- **Wildfire Mitigation Plan Maintenance**
- **Appendices**
 - Maps
 - Public Participation

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Schedule

- **Research Phase**
 - April-May 2004
- **County Profile Phase**
 - May, 2004
- **Hazard Identification Phase**
 - May-June, 2004
- **Hazard Mitigation Phase**
 - July-August, 2004
- **Plan Review Phase**
 - September, 2004

08/18/2004

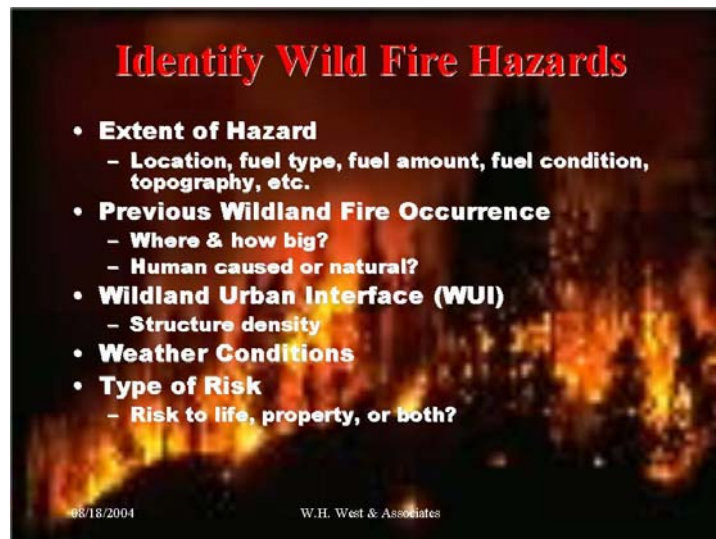
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Priorities

- **Protection of Life**
- **Protection of Property**
 - Homes, cropland, infrastructure, etc.
- **Protection of Resources**
 - Timber, watershed, rangeland, and other natural resources
 - Values
 - Scenic, historical, cultural, etc.

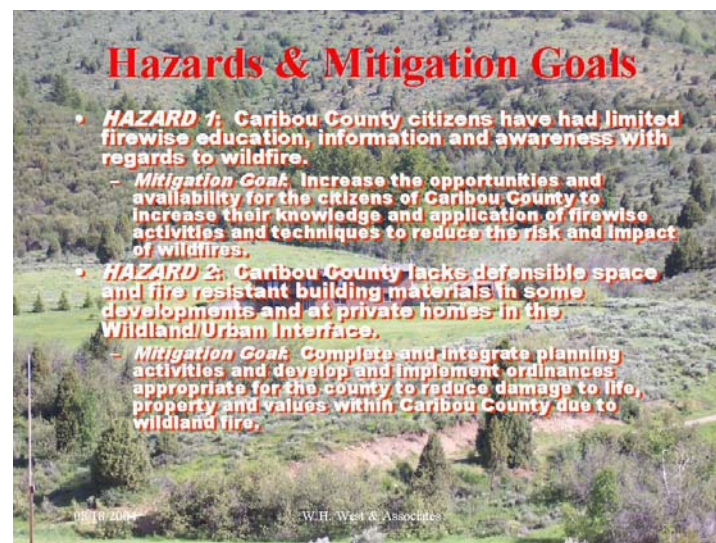
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Identify Wild Fire Hazards

- **Extent of Hazard**
 - Location, fuel type, fuel amount, fuel condition, topography, etc.
- **Previous Wildland Fire Occurrence**
 - Where & how big?
 - Human caused or natural?
- **Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)**
 - Structure density
- **Weather Conditions**
- **Type of Risk**
 - Risk to life, property, or both?

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Hazards & Mitigation Goals

- **HAZARD 1:** Caribou County citizens have had limited firewise education, information and awareness with regards to wildfire.
 - **Mitigation Goal:** Increase the opportunities and availability for the citizens of Caribou County to increase their knowledge and application of firewise activities and techniques to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires.
- **HAZARD 2:** Caribou County lacks defensible space and fire resistant building materials in some developments and at private homes in the Wildland/Urban Interface.
 - **Mitigation Goal:** Complete and integrate planning activities and develop and implement ordinances appropriate for the county to reduce damage to life, property and values within Caribou County due to wildland fire.

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Hazards & Mitigation Goals

- **HAZARD 3:** Caribou County contains limited sources of water for fighting wildfires and many of those sources are vulnerable to disruption of service in the event of a wildfire.
 - **Mitigation Goal:** Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Caribou County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption.
- **HAZARD 4:** Caribou County contains numerous roads and access restrictions (including weight limits on bridges) that may limit or exclude access to, and suppression of wildfires.
 - **Mitigation Goal:** Improve existing access where feasible and plan new roads and access routes with wildfire suppression needs in mind.

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Hazards & Mitigation Goals

- **HAZARD 5:** Caribou County contains numerous county roads, infrastructure, communication sites, developments, wildlands and communities that require hazardous fuels reduction.
 - **Mitigation Goal:** Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas.
- **HAZARD 6:** Caribou County volunteer fire departments need continued and ongoing infrastructure support in the areas of training, personal protective equipment (PPE), communications, equipment, apparatus and facilities to remain safe, effective and timely in suppression activities.
 - **Mitigation Goal:** Provide Caribou County VFDs with required training, communications, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Apparatus, Facility improvements and equipment to maintain or improve wildland fire fighting preparedness, capability and response times.

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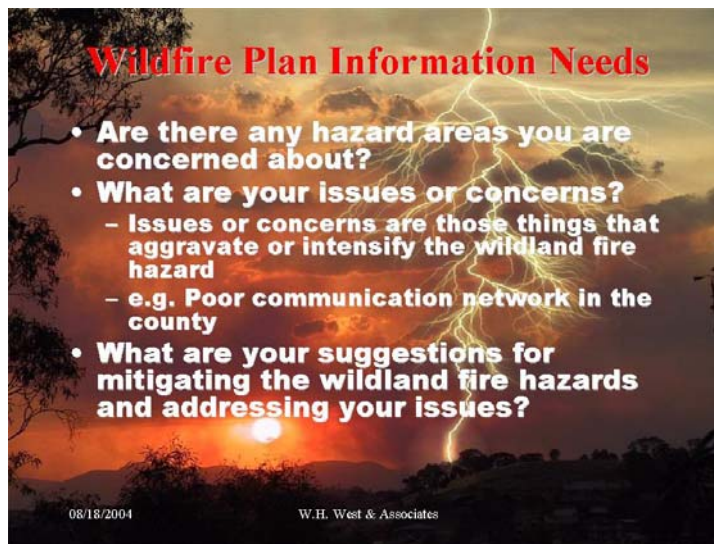
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Actions and Cost

- 53 mitigation actions identified to date
- At a cost of slightly over \$345,000

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Team Meeting #4

On August 31, 2004, the Caribou County Wildfire Mitigation Plan team met from 2:00-4:00 PM in the Emergency Services building in Soda Springs, ID. The objective of the meeting was to prioritize the mitigation actions.

Attending the meeting were:

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
Allen, Josse Caribou County Assessor's Office	(208) 547-4749	jallen@caribouco.com
Belger, Rick Bureau of Land Management	(208) 524-7602	Rick_belger@blm.gov
Conran, Kevin Bureau of Land Management	(208) 524-7602	Kevin_conran@blm.gov

NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
Godfrey, Dennis Caribou County	(208) 547-2583	dengodem@allidaho.com
Mattson, Jared U.S. Forest Service	(208) 847-0375	jared_mattson@fs.fed.us
Parsons, Teryl	(208) 648-7305	teryl5@msn.com
Peterson, Thad U.S. Forest Service	(208) 847-8946	tpeterso@fs.fed.us

The meeting opened with a discussion of the schedule for the rest of the project. The public comment period for the plan is scheduled to begin on September 20 and end on October 1. During that time a meeting will be held on September 27, during the regularly scheduled Commissioner's for the public to comment and ask questions regarding the plan. A news release will be issued prior to the comment period announcing the comment period and where the public can get copies of the plan. The plan will also be posted on the web site provided by the city of Soda Springs. Depending on the public comments received, the plan is proposed to be finalized and presented to the Commissioner's on October 8. The team will be provided a full draft prior to the public comment period.

The team then discussed comments and questions about any of the mitigation actions sent out to the members prior to the meeting. One question was raised regarding the origin of the action for conversion of the Bancroft VFD to a second station for Caribou County. It was explained that this suggestion had been discussed during the public open houses held in June and that this was simply one suggestion for consideration. The discussion pointed to making this a low priority compared to other actions in the mitigation list.

The group was then asked to rate all the mitigation actions as a High, Medium or Low priority for implementation in Caribou County. The actions were grouped by mitigation goal for the rating process. Dennis Godfrey was not present during the meeting but did provide his prioritized list of actions, and other comments, to Buck West prior to the meeting.

The meeting used computer-assisted facilitation using GroupSystems Meeting Room[®] software. Each participant had access to a computer, linked with other computers in the room. Any ranking or scoring of issues or needs was done via the computers and the results were immediately available for review and discussion. Comments and scoring information were recorded anonymously. The following table shows the results of the High/Medium/Low rating of actions.

The following table shows the number of participants who rated an item as H (High), M (Medium), or L (Low) priority for implementation. The letter selection is converted to the numeric value in parenthesis for the calculation of statistics on the rated item.

Statistics for Goal 1
 Total 49.67
 Mean M(3.55)
 STD 0.75

Statistics for Goal 2
 Total 45.00
 Mean M(3.46)
 STD 1.18

Statistics for Goal 3
 Total 22.00
 Mean M(3.67)
 STD 0.56

Statistics for Goal 4
 Total 17.33
 Mean H(4.33)
 STD 0.27

Statistics for Goal 5
 Total 19.00
 Mean M(3.80)
 STD 0.90

Statistics for Goal 6
 Total 43.67
 Mean M(3.64)
 STD 0.67

		H(5)	M(3)	L(1)	Total	Mean	STD
Goal 1: Increase the opportunities and availability for the citizens of Caribou County to increase their knowledge and application of firewise activities and techniques to reduce the risk and impact of wildfires.							
1.1 Action 1.5		5	1		28	H(4.67)	0.82
1.2 Action 1.2		4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
1.3 Action 1.6		4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
1.4 Action 1.7		4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
1.5 Action 1.3		3	3		24	H(4.00)	1.10
1.6 Action 1.10		2	4		22	M(3.67)	1.03
1.7 Action 1.14		2	4		22	M(3.67)	1.03
1.8 Action 1.4		1	5		20	M(3.33)	0.82
1.9 Action 1.11		1	5		20	M(3.33)	0.82
1.10 Action 1.9		2	3	1	20	M(3.33)	1.51
1.11 Action 1.8		1	4	1	18	M(3.00)	1.26
1.12 Action 1.12		2	2	2	18	M(3.00)	1.79
1.13 Action 1.13		1	3	2	16	M(2.67)	1.51
1.14 Action 1.1		1	1	4	12	M(2.00)	1.67
Goal 2: Complete and integrate planning activities and develop and implement ordinances appropriate for the county to reduce damage to life, property and values within Caribou County due to wildland fire.							
2.1 Action 2.7		6			30	H(5.00)	0.00
2.2 Action 2.2		5	1		28	H(4.67)	0.82
2.3 Action 2.13		5	1		28	H(4.67)	0.82
2.4 Action 2.5		4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
2.5 Action 2.3		4	1	1	24	H(4.00)	1.67
2.6 Action 2.4		4	1	1	24	H(4.00)	1.67
2.7 Action 2.1		3	2	1	22	M(3.67)	1.63
2.8 Action 2.10		3	2	1	22	M(3.67)	1.63

		H(5)	M(3)	L(1)	Total	Mean	STD
2.9	Action 2.8	2	3	1	20	M(3.33)	1.51
2.10	Action 2.9	1	2	3	14	M(2.33)	1.63
2.11	Action 2.12		3	3	12	M(2.00)	1.10
2.12	Action 2.11	1	1	4	12	M(2.00)	1.67
2.13	Action 2.6		1	5	8	L(1.33)	0.82
Goal 3: Provide additional sources of water at strategic locations throughout Caribou County and means of supplementing or replacing service in the event of disruption.							
3.1	Action 3.1	4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
3.2	Action 3.6	4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
3.3	Action 3.4	2	4		22	M(3.67)	1.03
3.4	Action 3.5	1	5		20	M(3.33)	0.82
3.5	Action 3.2	2	3	1	20	M(3.33)	1.51
3.6	Action 3.3	2	2	2	18	M(3.00)	1.79
Goal 4: Improve existing access where feasible and plan new roads and access routes with wildfire suppression needs in mind.							
4.1	Action 4.3	5	1		28	H(4.67)	0.82
4.2	Action 4.2	4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
4.3	Action 4.4	4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
4.4	Action 4.1	3	3		24	H(4.00)	1.10
Goal 5: Reduce identified hazardous fuels buildup in high-risk areas.							
5.1	Action 5.1	5	1		28	H(4.67)	0.82
5.2	Action 5.3	4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
5.3	Action 5.4	4	2		26	H(4.33)	1.03
5.4	Action 5.2	1	4	1	18	M(3.00)	1.26
5.5	Action 5.5	1	3	2	16	M(2.67)	1.51
Goal 6: Provide Caribou County VFDs with required training, communications, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Apparatus, Facility improvements and equipment to maintain or improve wildland fire fighting preparedness, capability and response times.							
6.1	Action 6.10	6			30	H(5.00)	0.00
6.2	Action 6.3	5		1	26	H(4.33)	1.63
6.3	Action 6.5	3	3		24	H(4.00)	1.10
6.4	Action 6.11	3	3		24	H(4.00)	1.10
6.5	Action 6.2	3	2	1	22	M(3.67)	1.63
6.6	Action 6.6	3	2	1	22	M(3.67)	1.63
6.7	Action 6.7	3	2	1	22	M(3.67)	1.63
6.8	Action 6.8	2	3	1	20	M(3.33)	1.51
6.9	Action 6.4	3	1	2	20	M(3.33)	1.97
6.10	Action 6.9	3	1	2	20	M(3.33)	1.97
6.11	Action 6.1	2	2	2	18	M(3.00)	1.79
6.12	Action 6.12	1	2	3	14	M(2.33)	1.63

The group then took any actions that received a high rating from any of the mitigation goals and ranked the actions from most important to least important. For this ranking process the actions were not grouped by mitigation goal.

This table shows the number of participants who placed an item at a specific location (rank) on the list. The number in each cell of the matrix indicates the number of participants who placed the item at that position on the list. Total scores are calculated by multiplying the rank position (weight) of an action by the total number of participants placing it at that rank. For example, if a list has three items, the top choice is given a weight of 3, the next choice is given a weight of 2, and the last item is given a weight of 1. If two participants ranked an action as their top choice, its total score is 6.

Public Participation #4

On September 27, 2004, a public meeting was held in the Caribou County Commissioner's chambers for the public to comment on the proposed mitigation plan and for the plan developers to answer questions about the plan. This meeting was attended by the three Caribou County Commissioners. No members of the public attended this meeting.

Public Comment Period

From September 20 through October 1, 2004, the public was invited to review and comment on this draft plan. A copy of this plan was mailed to five individuals requesting copies of the plan and e-mails were sent to two individuals requesting electronic copies of this plan. Copies of the plan were available from the Soda Springs web site and the Caribou County Emergency Services Office. No comments were received from the public on the draft plan.

